SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — *May 15, 1972*

No 147

Address: **HT 1217 B-SVN**
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

2 - AUG 29
Copy 1972

UNCLE HO
ALWAYS WITH US

*

editorial

FORWARD!

Our total triumph is an assurance double sure!

THIS part of our land has been the scene of a wave of shattering and successful offensives. For over a month, our armed forces and our people have been mounting sweeping actions and irresistible uprisings, in the plains and in the mountains, in the countryside and in the towns. Throughout these days of a fierce confrontation with the enemy, thanks to the devastating punches of our fighters, to the effervescence of our indomitable population and to the persuasive generosity of the PRG ten-point policy regarding the Saigon troops, our gains have been tremendous and comprehensive.

Within a short length of time, considerable adverse manpower has been wiped out or disbanded, a great amount of enemy weapons and war means put out of action or captured, big chunks of the ruling coercive machinery smashed, complete control restored over a whole province, many districts, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets.

The people's war has been stepped up to a new high with simultaneous, widespread, well-planned and harmoniously coordinated operations by all the arms and services of the PLAF. Millions of our fellow-countrymen have risen up to a man and crushed the US-Saigon yoke.

The current tide of attacks, started late in March is a withering indictment of Nixon's vicious "Vietnamization." It is a paean to the high sense of purpose of our entire nation and their attachment to independence and freedom. Our initial achievements are bringing a swift change to the complexion of the war and opening up fresh bright prospects for our undertaking.

MORE apparent than ever before is our winning posture, our upward trend. In all strategic areas, our armed forces and people have been vigorously active, overpowering the opponent on many battlefields, attacking relentlessly, carrying the day constantly, and keeping the initiative everywhere. In many important places, the adverse defence system has been breached open, the enemy battle array upset and their rear violently shaken and placed under heavy pressure. Our adversary has lost all the initiative right from the outset and has been taken unawares by the time, place, scale and strength of our assaults. He has been overwhelmed by the hails of our blows.

Our successes are also of a great strategic significance. A further push has been given to the decline of the Saigon forces including regulars, security guards and "people's self-defence" men. The former, despite high level combat support from US Airforce and 7th Fleet, have been badly battered: in only one month, 2 divisions, 7 regiments, multibattalion units, combat groups of the infantry and 8 armour units and 19 artillery battalions have been knocked out of action. Nearly half of the 13 divisions of the Saigon main force has been written off or seriously mauled. Almost one half of their tanks and armoured vehicles, nearly 1/4 of their heavy guns have been lost. All US coordination has proved ineffective. A series of US-Saigon tactics have come to grief... Clearly enough, the Saigon troops are no longer able to withstand our onsets for all US support. Due to severe

(Continued on page 2)

More heinous US crimes in Eastern Nam Bo

SINCE the very start of the US aggressive war, American generals have perseveringly tried to build the provinces of Eastern Nam Bo into a defence perimeter for the north and north-west of Saigon. They have fielded there hundreds of tanks and other armoured vehicles, weapons of all types, set up numerous gun emplacements and a thick network of mine-fields and entrenchments from Xa Mat (Tay Ninh province), through Binh Long to Bu Gia Phuc (Phuoc Long province) down to Binh Long chieftown.

To defend this area of "primary importance," the US-Saigon authorities have stepped up operations, forcible house removals and herding of people. Many US-Saigon joint units have made house-to-house searches along the western borders of the region down to Thu Dau Mot and Bien Hoa provinces, applied the "burn all, kill all and destroy all" tactics everywhere and levelled extensive rice-fields and orchards and graves into a no man's land.

In early 1969, the US and quislings deployed several more battalions, mobile army columns and "pacification" teams in prolonged raids with strong armour, artillery and air support, and devastated hundreds of square miles of riceland or gardens. Tay Ninh, Phuoc Long and Binh Long provinces with a total area of over 3,600 square miles and 910,968 inhabitants had 1,109 hamlets destroyed, 303,326 people killed, most of them children, old agers and women, and about 1,900 square miles of ricefields and gardens ravaged. The Ba Den mountainous area was subjected to repeated sweeps for 8 months on end (September 6,1969-April 1970), and received tens of thousands of shells. In some days, B-52 planes made over 30 sorties. Other aircraft day and night bombed and strafed the area and dumped on it a large amount of toxic chemicals especially the "CS-1" product, from 100 to 200-500-pound cans each time. The US-Saigon soldiery have demolished all the Cao Dai and Buddhist pagodas in the region including Thang Long Grotto, put all the bonzes in jail and raped or tortured the nuns, torn to shreds the bonzes' robes, smashed Buddhist statues and plundered all the pagodas' property and objects of worship. In March and early April 1972, the enemy again attacked the same locality, causing 1,676 more casualties. One half of Ba Den area was again churned up by US bombs and shells with all its houses pulled down.

Following 2 raids lasting from January to July 1969, Loc Ninh, Ba Nom and Soc Ruoi districts (Binh Long provinces) were turned into deserts, and 200 civilians killed or wounded. The survivors' already miserable life has been made much harder by enemy operations against the region since early this year.

In the first 2 months of 1966, the US aggressors poured on Cu Chi 180,000 bombs, destroying 3,000 houses and killing 300 civilians. Thus, each inhabitant of the district received 3 bombs a month. In addition, since early this year, US and Saigon troops have again mounted series of actions on the area, causing to the local population more deaths and sufferings. Many families who had survived the 1969 bombings such as those of Nguyen Van Mung (3 people), of Mme Do Thi Than (4 people), of Mme Tran Thi Thach (5 people)... were exterminated in sweeps in early January 1972.

Local rubber plantations have since 1968 been continually ravaged. Hundreds of hectares of heveas destroyed by noxious chemicals have not been restored. The Dau Tieng rubber plantation, the biggest in Eastern Nam Bo, has time and again been set on fire. Its 1972 yield is only 20 per cent of the 1969 and 1970 figures. Together with sweeps, bombings and chemical poison sprays, the US and its Saigon hirelings have perpetrated many massacres, typical of which were the slaughter of 50 people in the March 26, 1969 raid in Binh Long, the killing with mines of 100 patriots detained at Tay Ninh prison on June 18, 1969 and the murder of 200 women prisoners at Thu Duc jail in the same year.

In Operation "Cedar Falls" and the "Two Pincers" Campaign alone, hundreds of hamlets, villages or district towns were reduced to rubble, including the Ben Suc district capital with 2,000 houses completely burned down, the Ben Cat district capital and a number of areas in North Cu Chi with all their houses, ricefields and gardens entirely devastated. The people suffered 2,379 killed, 1,879 wounded, several thousand detained and 767 taken to unknown destinations.

Facing the danger of complete failure, the US and its Saigon agents have since early this year intensified attacks on the provinces of Eastern Nam Bo. 20,000 more houses have been destroyed, 2,607 more civilians shot dead, and thousands of others arrested or submitted to savage tortures. The raiders have also erased all the people's dwellings, ricefields and gardens along Highways 13 and 22, turning the area into a no man's land, rendering the local population homeless and further compounding their misery.

Such provinces as Binh Dinh, Tay Ninh, Binh Long and Cu Chi area..., especially populous areas, have been furiously assaulted. Air strikes have reached a new high. In some nights, B-52 planes made 20 flights, raining thousands of tons of bombs on densely populated centres and rubber plantations in Binh Long, along Highways 13 and 22... According to initial reports, in the first 5 days of April 1972 alone, the B-52 toll rose to 1,867 killed, 2,607 wounded and 3,676 people's houses, 136 schools, hospitals or pagodas destroyed. Hundreds of square miles in the region have been laid waste and all the people's belongings including children's clothes plundered.

As a result of all this, the Eastern Nam Bo people are in a great predicament. But despite the enemy odious crimes they are determined to cling to their fields, defend their homeland, further strengthen their solidarity and closely coordinate actions with the liberation armed forces and hit back at the enemy.

FORWARD!

Our total triumph is an assurance double sure!

(Continued from page 1)

casualtiss, they are critically under strength and short of mobile forces. Their "fortes" have been neutralized. Defeatism is rife among officers and men. The "backbone" of Vietnamization is being splintered.

Saigon local forces, the security guard and "people's self-defence," are deliquescent. Posts upon posts, military sector after military sector have been swept away at the same rate as the local quisling administrations. The results of many years' pacification exertions have gone up in smoke. The prop of "Vietnamization" has been in a state of utter collapse. Meanwhile our liberated areas have been expanding. Their strengthened interconnection will give shots into the arms of our army and people in their current gruelling fight. The people's war is most likely to be impelled forward to completely frustrate the "Vietnamization" program of the Nixon gang.

IN a little more than one month, the fortunes of the war have turned far more propitious to us, to the great detriment of the American aggressors and their agents. Renewed strength has been instilled into our armed forces and people for more sustained attacks on our enemy in all strategic areas and for further steady advances.

The Saigon soldiers, badly trounced, have had to be spread thin, with their main units committed to the defence of the hottest spots. Their morale has sagged to an all-time low. On account of all this, our people are in a better position to rise up and regain control.

Under the impact of our military accomplishments, the turmoil in South Viet Nam urban centres is coming to a head and will effectively help our combat efforts.

OUR dramatic advances of the last few weeks have thrown more light on our people and combatants' love for the fatherland and hatred for the enemy. They have been possible thanks to the NFL and PRG sound and imaginative military and political lines and to the PLAF Command's masterly conduct of the war. They are also due to the wholehearted assistance of our Northern kith and kin, their interest in, and stimulation to, each of our feats, their stubborn resistance to the US air and naval interdiction bombardments and their fruitful endeavour to maintain the flow of aid streaming southwards and their own producing while fighting routine uninterfered with.

Tribute must be also paid to the valuable contributions of the Cambodian and Lao peoples and armies with their well-coordinated actions, to the sympathy and support of our friends in all continents and to US progressives whose anti-war protest has been mounting right in the sanctuary of US imperialism.

However the latter's stinging setbacks have not affected its obstinacy and the aggressive will of Nixon and his confederates remains unimpaired. Their air and naval build-up is still going on, as well as furious bombings in both parts of our country. There has been talk of redeployment of the GI's remaining in South Viet Nam and of US Marines. US unilateral suspension of the Paris Conference and war escalation are frenzied reactions prompted by the failure of "Vietnamization." But they will not extricate the aggressors from their present predicament. Their crimes will grow proportionate to their war intensification. Nixon has taken the path of Johnson, a path which will surely lead to more dismal reverses. Following up the Quang Tri, Kontum, Binh Long, Binh Dinh successes, our combatants and fellow-countrymen will press their attacks and make more gains, in response to the call of the PLAF command.

TOUGH times are still ahead. But never before have we been in such fine fettle and such a favourable position. Our strength is like a rising sun, the enemy force is like a waning moon. Our spirits are high while their morale is at a very low ebb. The occasion must be taken by the forelock.

For the liberation of South Viet Nam, for the defence of North Viet Nam, for the ultimate reunification of our land, the South Viet Nam people and army are resolved to translate into deeds the appeal of the Central Committee of the NFL and the PRG of the RSVN to strictly implement the instructions of the PLAF Command and to keep up our offensive, fearless of difficulties, until the utter defeat of "Vietnamization" and recovery of independence and freedom. No brutal force can check our advance.

Forward! Our total triumph is an assurance double sure!

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

ENEMY SANCTUARIES HOT WITH POPULAR ANGER

THE towns and cities, especially Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, the last refuges of the US imperialists and their henchmen in South Viet Nam, are also the most populous areas. Their people have been living under very harsh constraint and repression of the police and fascist state machine of the quislings.

In particular, since US President Nixon began applying in South Viet Nam the notorious doctrine bearing his name through "Vietnamization," the atmosphere in the cities has become all the more oppressive.

Realities have shown more and more clearly that "Vietnamization" simply means aggression pursued with Vietnamese blood and under US command. The cities are the "storage" where the US and its agents can rake off much manpower and wealth, where they have established their control more tightly than elsewhere through utterly brutal policies and measures.

What "Vietnamization" has brought to South Viet Nam cities is a more and more decadent and chaotic society, an increasingly miserable life for the labouring masses and thousands upon thousands of young men impressed into the Saigon army to kill their own relatives and countrymen, devastate their own native places and serve as cannon-fodder for the US aggressors. It is safe to say that no one in the cities has been immune to this vicious policy. Every family is burning with hatred for the US and its hirelings.

Since long the population of South Viet Nam cities have come to see who are the enemy of the nation. Like the rest of the people, they have realized the brutal and bellicose nature of the chieftain of all imperialists. As early as in the fifties when the US imperialists had carried out its interventionist policy in Indochina, lent a hand to the French colonialists in the latter's reconquest of Viet Nam, the people of Saigon-Cholon already rose up resolutely and in force to chase them away when they landed in Saigon. This traditional anti-US dauntless struggle coupled with the anger at the countless crimes the US has been perpetrating for decades now in this country have been at the bottom of the South Vietnamese relentless struggle against the aggressor. Especially since last year when US imperialism revealed its naked design to carry on its aggression against South Viet Nam through "Vietnamization," through its stubborn effort to keep the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu in power, through the one-man "presidential election" and through the piling crimes against the South Vietnamese people, the revolutionary movement of the people in the cities has become all the more ebullient and fierce.

Stemming from legitimate and pressing demands, it is also aimed at immediate objectives. The workers in particular and the townsfolk in general cannot but rise up against the enslaving and reactionary economic policies and bloody repression which have rendered their life more and more unbearable. Students, pupils, intellectuals and other strata of the people cannot resign themselves to bear arms or let their sons and brothers be drafted to kill their own parents and relatives and to die ignominiously and uselessly for the aggressors and the clique of traitors.

The intelligentsia, patriotic personalities, writers, journalists, political, social activists, clergymen, and other patriotic personalities cannot stand with folded arms and accept a rotten, ferocious quisling regime, instrument of foreigners. Will they flinch before prisons, concentration camps and the most savage methods of torture of the enemy? No, decidedly not. They must rise up to wipe out humiliation and smash all shackles. By so doing they defend dignity and morality, and meet the most urgent demands of life. By so doing, they also upheld the spirit of dauntless struggle and the millenary revolutionary tradition of resistance against foreign aggression of the Vietnamese people.

These well-organized uprisings gaining in strength and scope have gathered into a tumultuous and continual revolutionary storm hitting the enemy from many directions right in their last hideouts at the very time when they are in an embarassing position, facing utter isolation, and incurring repeated and heavy reverses on all battlefronts and in all fields.

The workers and the labouring masses in general who made up the bulk of the townspeople are the most ruthlessly oppressed and exploited sections. They are the basic and most determined force in all actions against the reactionary policies of the enemy. The younger generation in the towns of which the core is constituted by the students and pupils—the shock force in most of the drives—have proved very worthy of their role as an igniter and promoter of the movement and the spearhead directed against the enemy ranks. Together with these, the other strata of the townspeople including democratic personalities, intellectuals, patriotic and progressive organizations and even war invalids of the Saigon army and an increasing number of officers and men together with the personnel of the Saigon administration have formed a broad front against the enemy right in the area still under their control.

The revolutionary movement of the people in the towns and cities of South Viet Nam is taking place under very diversified forms and in different degrees of intensity. Hundreds of thousands of workers and labouring people have made repeated work stoppages against US-Saigon enslaving economic policies and exploitation and plunder, to claim wagelifts, protest arbitrary dismissals, demand improvement of the living conditions, creating many difficulties to the enemy and at times crippling many establishments directly serving the US war of aggression. Students and pupils with the support of the other sections of the people have staged class boycotts, street demonstrations and even used violence to resist the repressive forces. They have opposed terror and repression, US aggression, pressganging and drafting of the people in the 15-50 age group into the so-called "people's self-defence" and demanded release of the students, pupils and other patriots arbitrarily arrested. Through their press articles and collective manifestos and declarations, they have denounced the US "Vietnamization" and other wicked and criminal deeds, demanded an end to the US war of aggression and immediate resignation of the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. Many journalists, writers, progressive intellectuals and patriotic and progressive organisations have directly taken part in the drive or actively helped promote and encourage it.

Before the military court of the Saigon regime, the indictments against the US aggressors and their agents by Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, a patriotic woman lawyer, and by many groups of heroic students and pupils, spelled out the firm determination and dauntlesness of the people in the South Viet Nam towns and cities. They were angry shouts and also moving appeals exhorting everyone forward. And many times, as in Tuy Hoa provincial capital, in Bong Son town and Da Nang, hundreds of thousands of students, pupils and people of various strata including many soldiers and personnel of the Saigon administration, have held spirited demonstrations against "Vietnamization" and murders by the US-Saigon rule. The protesters encircled and sacked the local police stations and offices, the instruments of crime of the US-Saigon. The militancy of the movement is running ever high in the cities and towns.

It is a splendid co-ordination with the wave of offensives and uprisings of the liberation forces and people throughout South Viet Nam.

Inspired by the latter's and the whole people's successes, the people in South Viet Nam cities will certainly bring into full play their great revolutionary capabilities and respond in the most relevant manner to the sacred appeal of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and contribute their best to the recovery of national independence and freedom.

Thieu, the puppet of the Yankees
(*From* Liberation News Service)

in the cities

o Following the setbacks Saigon has sustained across South Viet Nam, Thieu orders the Army General Staff and the Induction Centre to form joint-teams whose job is to draft women, especially college girls, into the puppet army. In Saigon—Gia Dinh, Thieu's agents have "visited" major schools like Saint Thomas and Le Van Duyet where they resort to crafty and demagogic manoeuvres to conduct military draft among college girls. Many school-pupils and their teachers have asked that these joint teams get out of their campuses. Pupils' parents and people of all strata in Saigon—Gia Dinh have also raised strong protest against the Thieu clique's forcible conscription designed to push women to their death on the battlefield in the place of the US aggressors.

o In face of the soaring prices resulting from Thieu's Autumn economic measures, Saigonese workers have stepped up their struggle for improvement of their living conditions.

— 800 workers of the two battery firms, Con O (Eagle) and Con Meo (Cat) have decided to adopt tough measures including strikes to press for their legitimate demands.

— Civil Aviation workers and employees have planned the holding of a congress to demand higher wages and strict application of dearness allowances.

—Their Union's Executive has denounced the board of directors of the air company for paying only meagre wages to workers and employees and for insulting the latter each time they got their pay.

— The Union of Don Dat hospital workers has taken the Hospital authorities to task for their absurd decision which asks the workers to use the Frech language in their conversation. The Union urges cancellation of their decision which, it says, is essentially designed to secure a pretext to fire the workers, and settlement of the latters's demand for higher wages.

o The Thieu clique has banned all May Day demonstrations and parades. The Saigon public, particularly the working population, has vehemently protested against their fascist move and pointed out that the imposition of such a ban amounted to a self-avowal by the Thieu clique of its isolation and weakening position.

o The Saigon Press Council has protested against the Thieu clique's brazen violation of the freedom of the press and the press code promulgated by Thieu himself. The protest has been made as the press is only allowed to publish new reports released by the "General Political War Department" and the propaganda machine of the Thieu regime.

Speaking at a session of the Saigon Senate on April 24, a senator maintained that Thieu's black-out on war news and ordering his agents to present empty petitions "acclaiming victories" when the situation is in fact critical, is like "a patient who turns to drugs to kill his pain."

PLAF COMMAND'S COMMUNIQUÉ :

• 90,000 enemy put out of action in one month

• More than ever we are before very great opportunities

IN a communiqué issued on May 6, 1972 the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces made known that in more than one month from March 30 to May 1st, 1972, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people killed, wounded or captured more than 90,000 enemy of whom nearly 10,000 were captured including hundreds of puppet officers and US "advisers" ranking from second-lieutenants to colonels.

In terms of units, the PLAF and people wiped out two infantry divisions, seven brigades, regiments, task force units and multi-battalion units, eight armoured regiments and 19 artillery battalions.

Besides, the PLAF inflicted heavy losses on eleven brigades, regiments and multi-battalion units and one armoured regiment.

They seized or destroyed 750 tanks and armoured cars, 2,300 military trucks, 460 artillery pieces and tens of thousands of guns of various kinds, shot down or destroyed 530 aircraft of various kinds and sank 69 vessels, seized or destroyed tens of thousands of tons of ammunition, weapons, food and war means. They destroyed forty big bases of the enemy including division, brigade and regiment headquarters, wiped out 19 military sectors, subsectors and district capitals and overran or forced the withdrawal of thousands of other military positions.

The PLAF completely liberated Quang Tri province, many district capitals and towns, hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets with a total of two million inhabitants.

The full text of this communiqué reads as follows :

ENTERING the spring of 1972, our people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, embarked on a new situation and faced very great opportunities.

Bringing into play their initiative of action on the battlefield and their victorious and upgrading position and putting into effect the determination of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam, National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam our armed forces and people in South Viet Nam launched all-round and large-scale offensives on both the military and political forces of the enemy.

We have attacked and risen up on all battlefronts from Tri-Thien to the Mekong delta.

After more than one month of relentless and extremely valiant fighting, we have won very glorious victories, scoring tremendous successes in all fields.

We dealt very hard blows at the enemy, wiped out a major portion of the most seasoned units of their live force and a great quantity of their war means, smashed many solid defence complexes and lines built by the enemy over more than ten years in important areas, overthrew the coercive machine of the US-Thieu clique from the grassroots to the provincial level, foiled their "pacification" program in many areas, and liberated many vast regions.

On the **Tri-Thien** front, from March 3 to April 3, we launched violent attacks and smashed the strong defence of the enemy north and south of Highway 9. The enemy was forced to send reinforcements and regroup into defence clusters in Dong Ha, Ai Tu, La Vang and Quang Tri. After twenty-three days and nights of encirclement and harassment during which we decimated and wiped out an important force of the enemy, on April 27, we launched a large-scale offensive, smashing this strongest defence cluster of the enemy, and completely liberating Quang Tri province.

Meanwhile, we continued to encircle and attack in force the enemy on Highway 12 (Thua Thien province), annihilating much of their force.

On the **High Plateaux**, we struck hard, wiped out many enemy positions on the mountain range west of Pa Ko river, attacked the enemy on Highway 14 from Pleiku to Kontum, cutting off Highway 19. On April 24, we launched a big offensive, quickly shattering the strong defence line of the enemy in Dakto - Tan Canh, liberated most part of Kontum province and a number of areas in Pleiku province. At present, we continue to encircle and attack the enemy in Kontum provincial capital.

In the plains of **Central Trung Bo**, on the night from April 7 to 8, we mounted widespread, violent and simultaneous attacks and uprisings, wiping out the enemy's main force in many areas, and captured one after the other the key military subsectors and district capitals of the enemy, as well as "civil guard" posts, struck hard at major supply bases of the enemy, cutting off their important strategic lines, liberating most part of Binh Dinh province and many more vast areas in Quang Da, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces.

In **Southern Trung Bo**, we attacked many enemy positions in Khanh Hoa, Binh Thuan, Tuyen Duc and Da Lat.

In **Eastern Nam Bo**, from the night March 31 - April 1st, we captured one after the other many positions of the enemy on Highway 22. From April 5 onward, we launched repeated and large-scale waves of assault, captured enemy positions on Highway 13, wiped out many task force units, regiments, armoured regiments, wiping out both the garrisoning and relief forces, smashing the solid defence of the enemy there, and liberating almost the whole of Binh Long province and most part of Tay Ninh and Phuoc Long provinces. We also made deep thrusts into the enemy rear in Northern Lai Khe, Dau Tieng and Cu Chi and put heavy pressure on the inner defence perimeter of the enemy north and northwest of Saigon.

In the **Mekong delta**, since the night from April 6 to April 7, we attacked in force many division and regiment headquarters and many mainforce units of the enemy, many military sub-sectors and district capitals, wiping out many "civil guard" and "militia" posts, while taking on the enemy on important roads and on the Saigon river. Our people in almost all the provinces in the Mekong delta have risen up powerfully to seize control and liberated many vast areas in the provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, Rach Gia, Can Tho, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, Ca Mau...

The People's Liberation Armed Forces have grown markedly in strength, as can be seen in the series of battles jointly delivered by their various arms services and on a large scale, in which thunder blows have been dealt at the enemy. Within a short time they have succeeded in wiping out many divisions, brigades, and regiments of both infantry and armour of the Saigon army, which were commanded by US advisors and had the massive support of the air forces and the 7th Fleet of the US imperialists, and a number of American and mercenary Pak Jung Hi ground forces.

Coordinating their fight, the armed forces and people in the whole region have stepped up guerilla war, striking very hard at big US and puppet logistic bases, destroying many storages, airfields, and harbours, together with tens of thousands of tons of weapons, ammunition and large quantities of war means of the enemy. They have also directed violent attacks on strategic communication lines, interdicting enemy road, air and river traffic, causing great difficulties to the enemy as far as his mobility, reinforcements, supplies are concerned, and increasing the predicament of enemy forces under siege on the battlefield.

UNDER the violent, continuous onslaught of our armed forces and people the enemy's battle order is upset everywhere. To come to the rescue of a number of important areas the enemy has had to throw in what is left of his general reserves and reduce his forces elsewhere. And, in the wake of the swift debacle of the puppet army, Nixon has had to play his last trump by ordering the deployment of large fleets of warships and aircraft, including B.52s, much larger than the ones mobilized under Johnson, to save the Saigon puppet army. Yet, the strength and success of the South Vietnamese people and armed forces have grown in direct proportions to the intensity of their fight, and their offensive has developed all the more vigorously. The Air Force and Navy and the tens of thousands of advisors of the United States have failed to save the puppet army.

In an attempt to retrieve their losses and break the combat will of our people the US imperialists have recklessly and frenziedly made another war escalation of utter seriousness by intensifying, in an extremely savage manner, their air and naval attacks on the north of our country and, what's more serious still, on many populous areas of Haiphong city and Hanoi capital.

The heroic armed forces and people of the North, however, have brought to full play their might and have won resounding victories. They have duly punished the US aggressors by, shooting down 82 US aircraft, among them 7 B.52s, and setting fire to 24 US warships within a month.

In close co-ordination with the armed attacks in a comprehensive battle order, our compatriots in areas still under temporary enemy control in the countryside, in the plains, in the mountains as well as in urban centres, have risen up with strength. Within a month, millions of them, from the southern bank of the Ben Hai River to the cape of Ca Mau, have stood up with great valour to overthrow the rule of the US-puppets, assert their power, and liberate their native places.

We are encircling and wiping out enemy main forces in a number of bases. We have taken a series of military sectors and subsectors, district towns, and posts defended by enemy "security" and "popular defence" forces, shattered various "strategic hamlets" and "refugees centres," and liberated vast areas in important sectors with millions of inhabitants.

The newly liberated areas have been enlarged fast and linked to one another and to the old ones to form a comprehensive, organic system. In these newly liberated areas the people are enthusiastically taking part in the resistance to the US aggression, endeavouring to build and consolidate the liberated zone, to bring life back to its normal, and to serve the front in an active manner, by contributing, in terms of manpower and wealth, to the victory of the resistance war.

In Saigon, Hue and Da Nang a movement is developing with might and main to demand the withdrawal of US troops, an end to the US war of aggression, and the overthrow of the puppet regime of Nguyen Van Thieu.

Responsive to the great 10-point policy of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and with the persuasion and assistance of the people, the Liberation Forces and their relatives, members of enemy forces, together with the people, have revolted in many places. Many "security" and "popular defence" units have risen up in insurrection, and many "civil guard" units have rallied to the people. The bulk of the officers and men of the 56th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, in Quang Tri province, and the 2nd Battalion of the 54th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, in Dong Tranh, have mutinied. The whole of the 9th Task Force Unit, the 5th Infantry Division and the enemy force in the Loc Ninh military subsector, many battalions and companies in Dakto, Tan Canh and other places, gave themselves up. Thousands of enemy officers and soldiers crossed over to the Liberation Army.

In only the first month of this offensive and uprising, from March 30 to May 1st, 1972, our armed forces and people killed, wounded or captured more than 90,000 enemy of whom 10,000 were captured including hundreds of puppet officers and US advisors ranking from lieutenants to colonels.

In terms of units, we wiped out :

— the 3rd and 22nd Infantry Divisions,

— Seven brigades, regiments, task force units and multi-battalion units belonging to the 5th, 18th, 23rd, 25th Infantry Divisions, the Marine Division, the 4th and 5th Ranger Multi-Battalion Unit ;

— eight armour regiments (1, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18 and 20), the 20th Regiment being the only one of the puppet army equipped with M. 48 tanks ;

— 19 artillery battalions.

We heavily decimated :

— eleven brigades, regiments and multi-battalion units of the 1st, 21st, 23rd and 25th Infantry Divisions, the Paratroop Division and the Marine Division, and the 7th Armour Regiment.

In terms of war means, we :

— captured or destroyed 150 tanks and armoured vehicles and 2,300 military trucks.

— captured or destroyed 460 cannon of the 105 mm and 175 mm calibres and tens of thousands of guns of various kinds;

— sank 69 war vessels ;

— seized or destroyed tens of thousands of tons of ammunition, weapons, food and war means ;

— destroyed 40 major bases of the enemy including division, brigade and storages, wiped out 19 military sectors, subsectors and military installations in district capitals, overran or forced the withdrawal of thousands of other positions of the enemy. Two more million of our people have seized control and liberated their native lands.

We have liberated many provincial and district capitals and towns and hundreds of villages and thousands of hamlets.

THE great and all-round successes won by our armed forces and people in this offensive and uprising bears very important strategic significance.

This wave of offensives and attack is a very hard blow dealt at the Vietnamization of the war strategy, smashes the foolish illusion of the Nixon clique of using maximum strength of its air and naval forces to save this strategy from bankruptcy.

The heavy setbacks of the US-Thieu clique in many fields herald the irretrievable collapse of the Vietnamization of the war policy.

These brilliant victories have brought about a quick change of the balance of forces on the battlefield between us and the enemy, creating major changes favourable to us in the overall war situation in South Viet Nam, making an important contribution to changing the situation of the anti-US resistance for national salvation of the peoples in the Indochinese countries and to the total victory over the US aggressors and the clique of their henchmen.

The source of strength behind this victory is the invincible people's war line, the creative and genial military art of our Vietnamese people, the clearlighted and correct leadership in strategy and campaign. It is also because we have always firmly held the initiative of action, maintained firmly our superiority in strategy, campaign and combat.

It reflects the iron will of our forty million people in both the South and the North to liberate the South, defend the socialist North and reunify the Fatherland, the determination to fight and to win of the heroic Vietnamese people. It also reflects the strength accumulated by our army and people in the anti-French resistance in the past and in the present resistance against the US aggression for national salvation. It is also the combined strength of the military and political forces, of the three sharp prongs of attack, of the three kinds of our armed forces, of the infantry and the various technical services in a well combined front of stormy attacks and uprisings.

It is the sacrifices and contributions, the wholehearted aid and powerful encouragement of the twenty-one million of our blood-sealed countrymen and fighters in the North, our great rear.

It is also the close co-ordination and the fight shoulder to shoulder in the common front of the armies and peoples of the three Indochinese countries which is further weakening the enemy and increasing his passivity.

The precious, great and effective assistance of the fraternal socialist countries, the sympathy, support and powerful encouragement of our friends in all continents and of the whole progressive mankind including the American people, have given us added strength to fight and defeat the enemy.

On this occasion, our armed forces and people express our sincere and profound gratitude for that wholehearted assistance.

In this fierce fight, all our fronts, all our armed services, the regular troops, regional troops as well as

(*Continued on page 6*)

Mortar captured from the enemy to cut off his retreat

PLAF Command's communiqué. . .

(Continued from page 5)

militia and guerillas, have fought well, won repeated victories recorded brilliant feats of arms, and achieved high combat effectiveness. Through the fight, our forces have become stronger, their mettle higher and their determination firmer.

The various units and organs serving the fight have displayed a high sense of responsibility and devotedly served the army to help them win victories.

The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces warmly commends all officers and combatants and our entire people who have made contributions to the glorious victories in this wave of offensives and uprisings.

Our armed forces and people in South Viet Nam are winning big victories.

The US aggressors and their henchmen are in a very critical situation.

More than ever we are before very great opportunities.

Let our people's liberation armed forces on all battlefronts dash forward in the impetus of victory, march forward valiantly, act with firmness and urgency, strike continually and forcefully, and win still bigger victories. Let them provide efficacious support for our people to rise up in insurrection to seize power, liberate their homeland, push forward attack and uprising on all the three strategic regions, fight while consolidating, building and developing our forces in order to become stronger as we fight. Let them join the people in the various localities in firmly consolidating the newly liberated areas, quickly stabilize the life of the people, see well to public order and security, and resolutely smash all plots of sabotage as well as all counter-attacks of the enemy.

In close co-ordination with the people, let them call upon and assist the various units, officers and soldiers and public employees in the Saigon puppet administration to rise up in insurrection, carry out mutinies, anti-war acts, cross over to the Liberation Army and join the people in the fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

We serve the following notice on Nixon and Co: they can in no way turn back the wheel of history and the more they are stubborn, cruel and perfidious, the heavier and more ignominious reverses they will sustain and cannot escape complete defeat.

Our nation has more than once "used justice to triumph over brute force" and "used humanitarianism to defeat brutality." Formerly, faced with foreign aggression, our ancestors fought like "thunder and lightning," like "splitting a bamboo" striking utter fear among the enemy. In the present era, our people have made such a world-resounding feat as the Dien Bien Phu victory. Today, history is entrusting us with the great responsibility of defeating completely the US aggressors and the clique of their henchmen. We vow to redouble our efforts, persist in and push forward the resistance, resolved to fight and to win, and carry out at all costs the teaching of our venerated President Ho Chi Minh: *"So long as a single aggressor remains in our country we must fight on to sweep him away".*

Let our officers and combatants on all fronts valiantly march forward!

Total victory shall be ours!

Songs and Joy after liberation: a group of PLAF artistes chatting with their enthusiastic audience

Elite fighters on highway 19

Good both at command and combat

All their counter-attacks on Hill R. from three directions having been foiled, the enemy moved in, from Highway 19, one infantry company under the cover of 6 tanks. The assailants progressed cautiously while firing with utter disregard for accuracy.

The first tanks had reached the level ground and were pointing their guns at the hill.

The PLAF fighters, on the instruction of Tai, their platoon leader, not to open up until the enemy came quite close, waited patiently. When the tank in the lead was within gun-range, the platoon leader himself fired his tank-buster. A ball of fire shot up into the sky, and the vehicle was turned into a smouldering heap of iron.

Enemy infantry from behind concentrated its fire on the defenders while a tank moved up, cutting across the open fields from the right.

Again Tai shouldered his gun and pulled the trigger, the enemy tank collapsed in its track.

This struck terror into the rest of the enemy, and troops and tanks took to flight in disorder.

The PLAF went after them and wiped out an entire platoon.

Back in their camp, the fighters enthusiastically praised their leader for his excellent command and great valour.

Effective support

The heavy machine gun got jammed just after the crew had knocked down an enemy plane.

Taking advantage of the lull, enemy aircraft came back in strength. They bombed a nearby area and ferried in ground troops. The enemy plan was to attack the rear of the unit that was positioned just in front of machine-gun squad number 3.

The men decided to resort to rifles and grenades. And, for four days, they repelled many counter-attacks by enemy aircraft and infantry, inflicting many casualties.

They were later commended for their effective and timely co-operation with other PLAF units.

May 19, in Pious Memory of President Ho Chi Minh

THE TENDER - AND STEEL - HEARTED POET

(A few remarks on his *Prison Diary*)

The PLAF's withering offensives and the people's uprisings, while shattering the "hard shell" and most heavily guarded defence lines of the US-Thieu, have set free thousands and thousands of persons from prisons and concentration camps of South Viet Nam.

But hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese patriots are still being incarcerated in "tiger" and "rabbit" cages on Poulo Condore and Phu Quoc islands, or in jails all over South Viet Nam. Penned up in these hells on earth, they carry on their unflinching fight to defeat completely the US aggressors, liberate themselves and their compatriots from that huge prison: South Viet Nam under the US-Thieu control.

To them and to all those detained for their patriotism and indomitable struggle for peace, democracy and justice, we dedicate the following article on the occasion of Ho Chi Minh's birthday — Ed.

AUGUST 1942. World War II was raging. Somewhere in China, near the Viet Nam's border, a man was put in jail.

The whole world is ablaze with the flames of war... (1)

and Viet Nam was heading toward the decisive moment, one that "happens only once in 1,000 years» to break her fetters once for all.

The man in jail was Ho Chi Minh. After more than 30 years abroad working for the liberation of his country, he had came back and lived two years in Cao Bang, in mountain caves and straw-huts on stilts. The Japanese took possession of Indochina. Guerilla movement was spreading. A resistance base was firmly established in the uplands. To establish contact with the Allies, Ho Chi Minh left Viet Nam for China, only to be arrested there, suspected of being a spy by Chiang Kai-shek's police. A thin man of 53 then, with deep marks of suffering and privation, he was first put in Zingsi jail, then taken successively to Nanning, Kweilin and Liucho, where he retraced his steps. Before dawn, he was sent on his way with hands bound, and at nightfall was happy to have one leg shackled so as to avoid a night's sleep on the edge of the latrine. He crossed 13 districts of Kwangsi province, was confined in 30 prefecture and district prisons for 14 months in all. But despite cold, hunger, fever, the cangues, the days of 50-kilometre walks, despite sleepless nights, the prisoner kept his smile.

He suffered terribly. Yet after one year in custody, he had written a hundred-odd Chinese Tang quatrains—a genre governed by rules as complex and rigorous as those of the classical sonnet — in a worn note-book where he jotted down his impressions of the day. He wrote in the language of his jailors who would have found suspicious anything written in Vietnamese. And so, *Prison Diary* contains "brief poems," mostly quatrains, on "trivial," "down-to-earth" themes, the "trifles" of a prison life. They were written in the most simple style, without any trace of artistic craft in both content and form. The author's aim was to "*while the time away in prison*" and relax. He was a very simple man, "*with apparently nothing particular about him*," noted Vo Nguyen Giap. The poems ignore all rules of traditional prosody: colloquial Chinese siding with poetic language, prisoners' slang mixed with literary terms, phonetic representation of English words, etc. Feet and metres were no bounds for him. Didn't *Mentzu* recommend: "*Never let literature scare your words, never let the words scare your will...*"? In short the kind of writing by a man free from literature's sway, the limpid writing which lets the reader penetrate thoughts and life.

THUS, one should not try to find in *Prison Diary* the projection of a "great man." One should not expect grandiose verses from Ho Chi Minh. The reason is that he was simplicity itself and this made him great. His originality lies in his extreme simplicity for "*it is far more difficult to be simple than to be complicated*" (John Ruskin). In the final analysis, simplicity is a question of power. His was too great to be hampered by purely literary matters.

Quatrain after quatrain, verse after verse, he depicted things very simply just as they were in life.

Life in the ward calls for quite a bit of housekeeping:
Wood, rice, oil, salt - everything must be bought and paid for.
In front of each cell there's a little stove standing,
On it all day boil rice, broth, and more. (2)

Gode Prison

The Water Ration, Louse-Hunting, A Prisonner Seeks to Escape, Twilight, Guards Carry a Pig, No Smoking, etc., are poems that seem to deal with "trivialities." However, once the poems are read through, the beauty of *Prison Diary* suddenly appears.

The history of literature, Vietnamese literature in particular, abounds in prison poems. In them, introspection is much preponderant. Defying confinement, the poets would escape on the wings of some dream, some philosophy, some recollection of the past. This spiritual evasion also constitutes one of the characteristics of *Prison Diary*.

Thy body is in jail.
But thy spirit, never.
For the great cause to prevail,
Let thy spirit soar, higher!

These lines, written at the very beginning of Ho Chi Minh's *Prison Diary*, constitute a fiery challenge to misfortune and an injunction to himself. Far from severing Ho Chi Minh from his ideals, prison and custody only sent his spirit on a flight to even higher summits. Genuine ideals have always been both lofty and realistic. And true humanitarianism while infinite is yet practical, concrete. In Ho Chi Minh, no close targets were neglected for far-reaching objectives and his love for the commonalty around him only increased his solicitude for those whose lives have been made up of daily sorrows and happiness, misfortune and joy.

Should such trivialities as "rice, salt, oil,.." be admitted into poetry? Aragon does not like the words: "*Banned from poetry*" *being put on anything whatever*. So our prisoner-poet let his Muse wander leisurely from one topic to another, from the scent of a rose

A rose blossoms, and then fades.
It blooms and withers — listless.
But its scent the cells invades
And arouses the prisoners' bitterness.

Evening Scenery

to **Moonlight**

In jail there is neither flower nor wine.
What could one do when the night is so exquisite?
To the window I go and look at the moonshine,
Through the bars the moon gazes at the poet.

or the cry of a baby

Boohoo! Away ran my conscript Daddy:
He was afraid to serve in the army
That's why I'm here in jail with Mummy
Though I'm half a year old barely.

The Child in Biniang Prison

Compassion, tenderness and blistering sarcarsm! On the road, he would observe

The wind on mountain rocks the edge of its sword sharpens.
The cold with its spear the tree-boughs pierces.
The bell from a far-off pagoda the traveller's steps hastens.
Flute-playing buffalo-boys leisurely ride home to the villages.

Twilight

The first two verses seem fresh with impressionist ink, while the third evokes the musicality of Tang *Zhang Gi's* quatrain:

The sound of Han Shan Pagoda's bell outside Gu To Citadel
Comes at midnight to the traveller's sampan.

(Midnight at Fong Bridge)

and the last verse recalls the lines by the Vietnamese 19th century poetess Thanh Quan in

Twilight

Tapping rythmically their buffaloes' horns
Little boys ride back to their solitary villages

HO CHI MINH was also known as a lover of folk music and song.

Nostalgically a flute wails in the ward
Sad grows the tone, mournful the melody
Miles away, beyond passes and streams, in infinite melancholy
A lonely wife mounts a tower to gaze abroad.

The Flute of a Fellow-Prisoner

A prisoner plays a flute: the tune is sad, the rythm melancholy. A jail-mate listens. Oh! How they understand each other: the flute-player was thinking of his home and family *beyond passes and streams*, where a lonely wife mounts a tower to wait for her husband's return. A bamboo flute, a sad tune, three people in three places, three situations, three moods.

(to be continued)

KHA DINH

---

(1) Sadness *in Prison Diary*.

(2) *Dang The Binh's translation (5th edition, Hanoi Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1972).*

The whole world condemns Nixon

o The biggest ever demonstration against US aggression and for VN in Holland was staged last April 29 in Amsterdam with over 15,000 participants including youths, representatives of all social sections and various political parties. The paraders carried hundreds of RSVN and DRVN flags, thousands of anti-US and pro-VN streamers, and chanted "Nixon, the murderer !", "The NFL will surely win !"...

On the afternoon of the following day, some 12,000 Dutchmen and Dutchwomen held a meeting in a forest near the Dutch capital to voice solidarity with the Vietnamese. The Holland Committee of Medical Aid to Viet Nam had decided to present the Vietnamese with 1,000 pounds of quinine.

o Throughout the last week of April 1972, British progressives of all walks of life held a parade in front of the US Embassy in London lasting from 12 to 13 hours a day displaying streamers urging an end to US bombings of North Viet Nam and pull-out of all American armed forces.

Meanwhile, students of Cambridge, Norwich and Essex Universities, marched past US biggest airbase in Laken Heath of East Anglia area, displaying "(South Viet Nam) NFL will certainly win !" slogans. A number of American troops stationed at the base waved approval.

o In many countries, Viet Nam was first and foremost in the activities of May Day.

o In Havana, May Day celebrations were opened by a march of hundreds of thousands with the watchwords: "Long life heroic Viet Nam !", "Nixon must stop bombing the DRVN !", "Support for the RSVN PRG 7 points !"

Speaking at a big rally at Revolution Square, Fidel Castro said: "If the Vietnamese want to more physicians, they will have them ! If the Vietnamese need more plasma or blood, we will send it to them. Our solidarity with, our support for, and our confidence in, Viet Nam... are unconditional and unlimited, and such is precisely our position."

o 50,000 Swedes took part in a demonstration in Stockholm, with streamers reading "US, quit Indochina !", "Long live South Viet Nam NFL !" "Liberation of South Viet Nam" songs and the "Internationale" resounded at Noraban Square when a meeting was called there.

Addressing a large rally in Hasslo, Premier Palmer strongly condemned the US aggressive war in Viet Nam. He pointed out that the essence of Nixon's "Vietnamization" was to bring GIs home but to introduce into South Viet Nam more bombs and bullets.

He made it plain that "the North Vietnamese cannot sit with folded arms and let the Americans trample upon the Southern part of their country."

At another meeting in Eskilstuna, Swedish Foreign Minister Vickman said: "US bombings of unheard-of brutality have been made on innocent civilians."

"The Vietnamese people's struggle is to liberate their country from imperialist oppression. They cannot be defeated, their will for freedom and independence cannot be broken by violence and tyranny."

o A 320,000-strong meeting was held in Berlin (GDR). Addressing the audience, H. Warnke, Politbureau member of the CC of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and President of the Free German TU Confederation, said: "We feel utterly shocked by the US imperialists' war crimes against the Vietnamese. We demand that the US withdraw all its troops, arms and war materials from Indochina."

o Similar protest meetings and demonstrations also erupted in Oslo. Those convened by the Norwegian Democratic Socialist Party and Red Labour Front alone drew a 15,000 attendance. Portraits of President Ho Chi Minh, flags of the South VN NFL, DRVN, Pathet Lao and Kingdom of Cambodia, and pro-VN and anti-US slogans were displayed.

o In Santiago de Chile and San Antonio, large meetings and demonstrations were staged under the watchwords: "Defend the people's government of President Allende !" and "Let's associate ourselves with the Vietnamese fighting against US imperialists' aggression !" In his speech at the Santiago meeting, President Allende declared: "I have made clear and today I reaffirm that all fighters and all the nations in the world are full of praise for the Vietnamese people's heroism."

o Meetings and marches were organized in over 800 places throughout Japan by a total of 7 million people for better life, cancellation of the US-Japan Security Treaty, and against the Sato administration's complicity with the US imperialists in the aggressive war in VN and Indochina.

o In West Berlin, meetings were held by 70,000 people to pledge solidarity with the Vietnamese and press for a halt to the US aggressive war in VN and prompt, total and unconditional pull-out of US and satellite troops from VN, Laos and Cambodia.

o In recent meetings and parades marking May Day, working people in Geneva, Basel, Lausanne (Switzerland), New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta (India), Bamako (Mali), Brazzaville (Congolese People's Republic), Baghdad (Iraq) also voiced militant solidarity with the Vietnamese workers and labouring people now resisting US aggression.

In the United States

Spring Offensive unabated

IN the wake of demonstrations and parades which, on April 22, involved hundreds of thousands of people, no day has passed in the last fortnight without an action against the war of aggression in Viet Nam. On some days, for example on May 4, 211 war-resisters were arrested by the US reactionary rulers, *AFP* reported—each day saw more cities and universities joining in the protest. The demonstrators in many places, especially the students, clashed with the police and used sticks and stones against them.

At the Earle naval base, New Jersey, anti-war elements on eight small boats blocked the way of a US Navy vessel carrying VN-bound ammunition. More recruiting centres and ROTC in universities were sacked, set afire or occupied by students. Two buildings of Columbia University were seized for 10 days (since April 21) and the library of Cornell University for 5 days. Wooden or paper crosses were planted by demonstrators, chiefly students, in front of the Westover air base, Chicopee city, Massachusetts, and the ROTC of Kent University to express their horror at the crimes committed by US pilots against North and South Vietnamese civilians.

The GIs: "We are fast on the path of Vietnamization
(*From* Baltimore Sun)

Nixon's demagogic and warlike statements on April 26 and 30, instead of deceiving Americans as intended to, only exasperated their anger. Right on the evening of April 26, Kent University students burnt Nixon in effigy. The drive grew even fiercer in the following days. In Auguste city, dissenters encircled the seat of the Republican Party convention — where Vice-President Agnew was to deliver a speech — lowered the American flag, tore off banners welcoming Agnew and displayed instead posters reading: "Welcome to Viet Cong (National Front for Liberation) and North Viet Nam Army !" In New York, a number of nuns at a ceremony lay down on the ground to simulate war victims in Indochina; they also demonstrated in front of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. In Boston, demonstrators occupied the radio and television station and voiced their opposition to the war and to Nixon's hypocritical pronouncements. For the first time at Guam where B-52s take off for bombing raids on Viet Nam, a rally took place for the cessation of the bombing in Viet Nam.

On May 4, second anniversary of the murder of 4 students at Kent University, meetings, parades, rallies were held in Washington and other cities and universities across the United States.

On their part, 600 university and college professors sent a cable to Nixon, while many well-known US scientists members of the Conference of the American National Scientific Association and of the Conference of the US Unified Methodist Church, representing 10.5 million American citizens, passed a resolution denouncing the US war escalation in VN and urging cessation of the bombing and aggressive war, and immediate and total withdrawal of the troops.

In Congress and political circles, many personalities condemned Nixon's bellicosity and described his "Vietnamization" policy as a "disaster." Senator George McGovern declared that Nixon's new announcement of troop withdrawal while stepping up the air and naval war in Viet Nam was a political deception and a calculated fraud to save the President's and Thieu's faces. The Viet Nam bombing, he said, was a callous trick leading to US pilots' indefinite detention in Hanoi, murder of innocent civilians, more onslaughts on the remaining GIs, and emptying of US workers' and tax-payers' pockets. Senator W. Fulbright stated that Nixon's change in war policy was to shift from the use of ground troops to unlimited air and naval bombardment. It seems, he said, that the Americans will still have to fight and to die so long as it is necessary to save the South Viet Nam administration (i.e. Thieu's regime) from defeat. Daniel Davidson, a former member of the US delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, revealed that Nixon had rejected and violated the 1968 "tacit understanding" to have a pretext for a large-scale bombing of the DRVN. Senator Alan Cranston pointed out that the only final solution was to be found in negotiations with the adverse side for the withdrawal of the remaining US troops, otherwise there would probably occur a retreat under fire on the pattern of Dunkerk with heavy (US) losses. (*UPI*, May 6).

As Fred Lygren, national coordinator of the National Peace Action Committee, has made it clear, "the American people are not weary of marches and parades (against the Viet Nam war,), they are weary of bombing."

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION